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Submission to the Senate Committee on Transport and Communications regarding Bill C-48, the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act

March 31, 2019

THE BC NORTH COAST - HAIDA GWAI I IS A PRECIOUS HERITAGE
Through years of fishing, exploring and enjoying the waters on British Columbia's North Coast I have come to appreciate what a special place this is. At these latitudes the land and the sea create favourable conditions for a broad biodiversity, and a rich environment for human living. The area is particularly suited for recreation, wildlife observation, discovery, reflection and renewal, and for many compatible small business undertakings. It's a beautiful region, perfected over millions of years, that Canada must care for and preserve. The oil tanker moratorium, Bill C-48, is a protective measure. Diluted bitumen is highly damaging to the marine environment if it mixes with it.

OIL TRANSPORT THROUGH BC NORTH COAST WATERS IS RIFE WITH RISKS
Many factors must be absolutely controlled along the entire route in any weather, night or day, to safely transport oil in large tankers (VLCCs) through confined coastal waterways, Hecate Strait and Dixon Entrance. There are many things that can go wrong. Examples of risk factors are: adjacent vessel traffic, decisions made at critical times, tethered tug performance, personnel availability and qualifications, language and communication, onboard fault potentials, compounded adverse events, weather and visibility. It would be unrealistic to think that no emergency would ever occur with operations of supertankers on the BC North Coast. In fact, the chance for a large spill to happen would approach certainty in the span of two or three decades.

END OF FOSSIL FUELS
The beginning of the end for fossil fuels is now. Predominant consumption of coal, petroleum and natural gas should already be a thing of the past due to the inescapable consequences of climate change, rapid depletion of these resources and the harm that extraction is increasingly causing to land and ocean. Canada could well take a lead in the transition to a post fossil fuel economy. People whose livelihoods are tied to fossil fuel production in it's dying days will be first in line for jobs in the emerging industry of new fuels, energy and power systems. Heavy fuel users - airlines, railways, etc. should wisely support climate safe fuel development. Petrochemical companies with their expertise and resources should be at the forefront in developing and producing suitable fuels on a large scale.

Please support Bill C-48.

Sincerely

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